AD-A242 108





ETL 91-7 SUPERCEDES ETL 88-5 21 AUGUST 1991

# ENGINEERING TECHNICAL LETTER

CHLOROFLUOROCARBON (CFC) LIMITATION IN HEATING, VENTILATING & AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) SYSTEMS



OFFICE of THE CIVIL ENGINEER
DIRECTORATE of MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING DIVISION



91 10 31 072





HQ USAF/CEC

Accession for NEIS GRADI V Tro Tab

www.commed ClZication

Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 91-7, Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)
Limitation in Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC)
Systems. (Supersedes ETL 88-8, same subject, 4 Oct 88)

Distribution List.

Sy Distribution/

## l. <u>Purpose</u>:

- a. This ETL supercedes ETL 88-8 dated 4 October 1988.
- This ETL provides quidance to reduce Air Force dependence on regulated CFCs as refrigerants in HVAC systems. Escalating taxes on CFCs use and possible complete phase-out of production of these regulated CFCs (CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, CFC-114, CFC-115, and refrigerant mixtures of these regulated CFCs such as CFC-500, CFC-501, and CFC-502) by the end of 1999 necessitates strategic planning immediately to avoid vulnerability in the immediate and . long-term future. This will result in a corresponding reduction Recycling and recovery of of availability and increase in cost. these regulated CFCs will become mandatory to prevent intentional venting, and to preserve and reuse CFCs currently in use to service existing installed equipment. The venting prohibition is to go into effect 1 July 1992. In accordance with Msg 131445Z SEP 90. HO USAF/LEED, the continued installation of HVAC systems using regulated CFCs is unacceptable environmentally and construction contracts shall not be awarded utilizing CFC-11 or CFC-12.
- c. For new HVAC equipment, alternatives to CFC-11 and CFC-12 have been developed and are now available. Acceptable alternative refrigerants include, but are not limited to HCFC-22, HCFC-123, and HFC-134a.
- d. For existing HVAC equipment installations, appropriate strategies include:
- (1) Containment of existing refrigerants through improved O&M procedures to reduce leaks and emissions during routine handling, servicing, overhaul, and operations. Use of refrigerant pump-out/recovery equipment, retrofit with efficient purge systems on low pressure chillers, identifying and correcting leaks, reclaiming contaminated or otherwise unusable refrigerant, monitoring usage, and general conservation practices shall be used.

- (2) Conversion of existing HVAC equipment, typically centrifugal chillers, to operate on the alternative refrigerants should be undertaken only when economically or operationally appropriate. An "engineered conversion" should be made in consultation with the original equipment manufacturer to ascertain the effect on capacity and energy usage, and to determine the proper conversion program to minimize degradation in capacity and increase in energy consumption. Consideration should be given to supplementing lost capacity with an additional chiller by comparing the cost of this approach to the cost of the various conversion options.
- (3) Change-Out or replacement of existing HVAC equipment to new equipment which operates on one of the alternative refrigerants should be considered when the existing equipment:
- (a) reaches the end of its useful mechanical life and overhaul is deemed not cost effective, or
  - (b) can no longer meet mission requirements, or
- (c) can not be economically converted to operate on an alternative refrigerant or conversion is otherwise not feasible or cost effective.
- 2. <u>Effective Date</u>: This ETL is to be implemented as of the date of this letter.
- 3. <u>Referenced Publications</u>: Applicable referenced publications are as follows:
- a. AFR 88-15, Criteria and Standards for Air Force Construction.
- b. ETL 88-4, Reliability and Maintainability (R&M) Design Checklist, 24 June 1988.
- c. HQ USAF/LEED Message 131445Z Sep 90, Limitation of Chlorofluorocarbons and Halons.
  - d. Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-549).
- e. BSR/ASHRAE Standard 15-1989R, "Safety Code for Mechanical Refrigeration".
- 4. <u>Description/Implementation</u>: This criteria requires immediate implementation to reduce or eliminate Air Force dependence on CFCs for new HVAC equipment installations and to reduce and minimize Air Force CFC emissions in the routine operation, maintenance, and service of the existing inventory of installed HVAC systems. Currently, HVAC products using HCFC-22, HCFC-123, and HFC-134a are competitively available and provide an immediately available

, 1

solution to reduce or eliminate our dependence on CFCs for new equipment installations. Conservation of CFCs through improved O&M procedures, recovery of refrigerants, and recycling, will reduce and minimize emissions and help to prolong the useful operational life of installed HVAC systems. This ETL limits the use of CFCs in Air Force design and construction (MILCON, NAF and O&M) programs to non-regulated compounds as follows:

- a. New mechanical HVAC refrigeration equipment shall use HCFC-22, HCFC-123, or HFC-134a or other available substances (except no CFCs) permitted under Section VI of the Clean Air Act.
- b. For repair by replacement projects involving the complete refrigerant side of existing equipment, the replacement equipment shall use HCFC-22, HCFC-123, or HFC-134a or other available substances permitted beyond the year 2020 under Section VI of the Clean Air Act.
- c. Equipment room installation of new, replacement, or converted HVAC equipment shall be in accordance with the recommendations of ASHRAE Standard 15R to minimize and protect against exposure to high concentrations of refrigerant vapor. Key elements of those recommendations are:
- (1) Use a refrigerant sensor capable of monitoring the specific refrigerant concentration level.
- (2) Use an alarm activated at a level not greater than the Allowable Exposure Limit (AEL) for the specific refrigerant used.
- (3) Use mechanical equipment room ventilation rates sized per ASHRAE Standard 15R.
- (4) Provide at least one approved self-contained breathing apparatus located convenient to the equipment room.
- (5) Pipe the rupture member and purge discharge to the outdoors.
- d. In addition to the recommendations of ASHRAE Standard 15R, the following practices will further contribute to an acceptable chiller equipment room environment and will conserve and contain refrigerant:
- (1) Replace purge units on all low-pressure chillers which are over two years old with new high efficiency purge units to significantly reduce chiller refrigerant loss during operation and while idle.
- (2) Use pump-out units to recover, recycle, and contain refrigerant liquid and vapor during servicing and overhaul to prevent loss and escape into the equipment room.

- e. Purge System Specification: The following description of the purge system, for a centrifugal chiller using a low pressure refrigerant, shall be used in specifications to obtain a purge system with minimum standards of efficiency:
- (1) The manufacturers of low pressure machines must provide a separate purge system that operates independently of the unit and can be operated while the chilled water pump is shutdown. No external water cooling source is to be required.
- (2) If the purge unit cannot operate when the chiller is off, a positive pressure device (such as a belly heater) shall be provided on the evaporator to raise the pressure of the bundle above atmospheric pressure when the machine is off, This will prevent non-condensibles from entering the machine.
- (3) Any excess purge requirement will enable a fault indication light at the purge and a contact closure will be provided for remote annunciation.
  - (4) The unit indication shall include:
- (a) Lights indicating condenser running, fault indication and service operation.
  - (b) Elapsed time meter (monitor amount of leak rate).
- (5) At standard operating conditions and with a condensing refrigerant temperature less than 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the purge exhaust must be rated for no more than 0.75 to 1.0 pound of refrigerant per one pound of non-condensibles.
- f. Specifications shall be written to avoid restrictions on the specific type of refrigerant (except no CFCs) to encourage competitive bidding of available product offerings.

#### 5. Exceptions to Policy:

- a. New absorption equipment or replacing existing quipment with absorption equipment.
- b. For large tonnage units (typically over 1200 tons), equipment in these size ranges which use HCFC-22, HCFC-123, or HFC-134a may not be commercially available by a minimum of two suppliers with adequate operational experience. Consider the installation of multiple smaller units using the acceptable refrigerants or using absorption equipment. All available equipment types (reciprocating, scroll, helical screw, absorption and centrifugal) must be evaluated in making this decision.

b. Point of contact for design issues (MILCON and NAF) is Mr. Jerry D. Williams, AF/CECE DSN 297-6237 or commercial (202) 767-6237; for O&M issues other than design, the contact is Mr. Quinn Hart, AFCESA/ENM, DSN 523-6346, or commercial (904) 283-6346.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Charles & Le

2 Atch

1. Definitions

2. Distribution List

#### DEFINITIONS

l. The following definitions for reclaim, recovery, and recycle pertain to the handling and treatment of refrigerants used in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. These definitions are from the ASHRAE Proposed Guideline GPC-3P, "Guideline for Reducing Emission of Fully Halogenated Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Refrigerants in Refrigeration, Air Conditioning Equipment and Applications", June 1989. They are equally applicable to the handling and processing of other refrigerants such as HCFCs and HFCs. Included is the definition for purge which relates to maintaining refrigerant operating quality in chillers. All refrigerants, regardless of type, should be handled in an environmentally responsible manner and should be conserved for reuse or proper disposal. By 1 July 1992, Provisions under the new Clean Air Act will make it unlawful to knowingly vent or otherwise release controlled refrigerants into the environment.

### 2. Reclaiming Refrigerant:

- a. To reprocess refrigerant to new product standards. This may require chemical analysis of the contaminated refrigerant to determine that the appropriate specifications are met. This term usually implies the use of processes or procedures available only at a refrigerant reprocessing or manufacturing facility.
- During use in an air conditioning system, refrigerants become contaminated over time. Such contamination reduces the efficiency of the refrigerant and its effectiveness as a heat transfer working fluid. The degree and type of contamination determines if the refrigerant should be "reclaimed" or "recycled" (see definition below) to restore the refrigerant to the acceptable standard for reuse. Severely contaminated refrigerant typical of refrigerants which have been exposed to a major chiller failure, motor burn-out, etc., must normally be "reclaimed" using a multi-stage distillation process which requires the refrigerant be sent to a commercial reclamation facility for processing. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) has established ARI Standard 700 as the standard for determining the quality of reclaimed refrigerant. ARI Standard 700 is designed to restore refrigerant to "like new" quality so it may be resold in the market place.
- 3. Recovery of Refrigerant: The process of removing and storing refrigerant from an air conditioning system so the product can be serviced, maintained, or overhauled without the loss of its refrigerant charge to the atmosphere. The recovery process typically involves the connection of an evacuation/pump-out unit which will remove refrigerant liquid and most of the refrigerant vapor into temporary storage tanks. The quality of the

evacuation/pump-out unit and its ability to draw a deep vacuum on the air conditioning equipment determines the degree of refrigerant removal which can be achieved. Lesser quality units leave a significant amount of refrigerant vapor in the unit which can subsequently escape to the atmosphere.

#### 4. Recycling Refrigerant:

- a. To clean refrigerant for reuse by oil separation and single or multiple passes through moisture absorption devices, such as replaceable core filter-driers. This term usually implies procedures implemented at the field job site or at a local service shop.
- b. Not all refrigerant which has been contaminated needs to be commercially "reclaimed" [see definition above]. In most cases, contamination due to normal use is mild, consisting of entrained oil and some moisture/water vapor. Normal contaminants such as these can be effectively removed using field recycling devices, which clean the refrigerant and separate the refrigerant from entrained oil. Although not considered "like new" per ARI 700, recycled refrigerant has significantly improved operating performance compared to contaminated refrigerant. Recycling devices are often incorporated as optional features of Recovery/Pump-out units thus allowing for both the recovery and the recycling of the refrigerant when servicing, maintaining, or overhauling a piece of air conditioning equipment.

#### 5. Purging:

- a. To remove non-condensible contaminants, air, and water vapor from low pressure air conditioning equipment during normal equipment operation.
- Purging applies to air conditioning chillers which use low pressure type refrigerants. These refrigerants are typically CFC-11 and HCFC-123. Because these are low pressure refrigerants, during operation and at certain times when the chiller is idle, the chiller may exist in a state of vacuum. This can cause air, water vapor, and other non-condensibles to enter the chiller which consequently degrades performance. Purge units are used on these chillers to remove these products from the machine and maintain the high level of performance of the chiller. In the past the process of purging involved the removal of the purged products but in addition, resulted in the loss of some refrigerant. Inefficient purge designs of the past could result in the chiller losing 10 percent or more of its operating refrigerant charge during a typical year of use. Currently, new high efficiency purge designs are available for retrofit on older model centrifugal chillers which reduce refrigerant losses during the purge operation by over 90% compared to purge designs of the past.

		•	
ACTION OFFICES	: IGPIES	ACTON GERICES, CONT.	P:E
HQ AFCC/DEO/DEP SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-5001	2	AFCEE BROOKS AFB, TX 78235-5000	•
HQ AFLC/CEE/CEM/CEP WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH 4543	3-5001	HQ AFTAC/LGD Patrick afb, fl 32925-6001	1
HQ AFRES/CEE/CER/CEP ROBINS AFB, GA 31098-5000	3	HQ AFMPC/DPMSSC randolph afb, tx 78150-6001	1
HQ AFSC/DEE/DEP ANDREWS AFB, DC 20334-5000	2	HQ AFOTEC/DE KIRTLAND AFB, NM 87117-7001	1
HQ ATC/DEE/DEM/DEP RANDOLPH AFB, TX 78148-5001	3	BMSD/DE NORTON AFB, CA 92409-6448	1 .
HQ AU 3800 ABW/DEE/DEM/DEP MAXWELL AFB, AL 36112-5001	3	ESD/DE HANSCOM AFB, MA 01731-5000	1
HQ ESC/LEEE/LEEP SAN ANTONIO, TX 78243-5000	3	SSD/DE LOS ANGEL <b>ES AFS, CA 90009-2260</b>	1
HQ PACAF/DEE/DEM/DEP HICKAM AFB, HI 96853-5001	3	ASD/DE WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH 45433-6503	1
HO MAC/LEEE/LEEO/LEEP SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-5000	3	HQ AFOMS/SGSF Brooks Afb, Tx 78235—5000	1
HQ SAC/DEE/DEM/DEP OFFUTT AFB, NE 68113-5001	3	HQ AFFES ATTN: EN-CE PO BOX 660202	1
HQ AFSPACECMD/DEE/DEM/DEP PETERSON AFB., CO 80914-5001	3	DALLAS, TX 75266-0202 DEFENSE COMMISSARY SERVICE	;
HQ TAC/DESE/DESR/DESU LANGLEY AFB, VA 23665-5001	3	DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES BUILDING 8400 LACKLAND AFB. TX 78236-5000	ů.
HQ USAFE/DEE/DEM/DEP APO NY 09012-5001	3	CHIEF OF ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	6
HQ AFCESA/ENM/DF/RAXT TYNDALL AFB, FL 32403-6001	3	ATTN: CEMP-ET/-ES/-EM/-MF/-CF/-CP 20 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000	
NGB/DEE/DEO ANDREWS AFB, MD 20334-6008	2	DEFENSE COMMISSARY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES	1
HQ SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND MACDILL AFB, FL 33608-6004	)/SOJ-4 '	BUILDING 8400 LACKLAND AFB, TX 78236-5000	
HO AFDW 1100 CES/DEE/DEM/DEP BOLLING AFB, DC 20332-5000	3	CHIEF OF ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ATTN: CEMP-ET/-ES/-EM/-MF/-CF/-CP 20 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000	6
USAFA 7625 CSG/DEE/DEM/DEP/DEF USAF ACADEMY COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80840-58	4	NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEER COMMAND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY ATTN: CODE DS04/0522	2
STANDARD SYSTEMS CENTER/SMLEF GUNTER AFB, AL 36114-3643		200 STOVALL ST ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-2300	
AFRCE-SAC/DEE OFFUTT AFB, CA 68113-5001	1	CMDR, ATLANTIC DIVISION/CODE 04A4 NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAN( BLDG N 26 NORFOLK VA 23511	
HQ USAFE/DER RAF RUISLIP ADM, UK APO NY 09241-5000	1	NORFOLK, VA 23511  CMDR, NORTHERN DIVISION/CODE 04AB NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMANU BLDG 77 LOW, US NAVAL BASE	1 D
AFIT/DEE/DEM WPAFB, OH 45433-6583	2	PHILADELPHIA, PA 19112	

ACTION OFFICES CONTY

Best Available Copy

CP:ES

1

1

# ENGINEERING TECHNICAL LETTERS (ETL)

# SECTION A - CURRENT ETLS

ETL	Number	Title	Dat	te Is	ssued
	82-2 83-1	Energy Efficient Equipment Design of Control Systems for HVAC Change No. 1 to ETL 83-1, U.S. Air Force Stndardized Heating, Ventilating		Nov Feb	
	83-3	& Air Conditioning (HVAC) Control Systems Interior Wiring Systems, AFM 88-15	22	Jul	87
	83-4	Para 7-3 EMCS Data Transmission Media (DTM)	2	Mar	83
		Considerations	3	Apr	83
	83-7	Plumbing, AFM 88-8, Chapter 4		Aug	
	83-8	Use of Air-to-Air Unitary Heat Pumps	15	Sep	83
	83-9	Insulation	14	Nov	83
	84-2	Computer Energy Analysis	27	Mar	84
		Change 1 Ref: HQ USAF/LEEEU Msg			
		031600Z MAY 84 1 Jun 84			
	84-7	MCP Energy Conservation Investment		-	
		Program (ECIP)	13	Jun	84
	84-10	Air Force Building Construction and			
		the Use of Termiticides	1	Aug	84
	86-2	Energy Management and Control Systems (EMCS)	5	Feb	86
	86-4	Paints and Protective Coatings		May	
	86-5	Fuels Use Criteria for Air Force		···a y	
		Construction	22	May	86
	86-8	Aqueous Film Forming Foam Waste		1	
		Discharge Retention and Disposal	4	Jun	86
	86-9	Lodging Facility Design Guide		Jun	
	86-10	Antiterrorism Planning and			
		Design Guidance	13	Jun	86
	86-14	Solar Applications	15	Oct	86
	86-16	Direct Digital Control Heating			
		Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems	9	Dec	86
	87-1	Lead Ban Requirements of Drinking Water	15	Jan	87
	87-2	Volatile Organic Compounds	4	Mar	87
	87-4	Energy Budget Figures (EBFs) for			
		Facilities in the Military Construction			
		Program	13	Mar	87
	87-5	Utility Meters in New and Renovated			
		Facilities		Jul	
	87-9	Prewiring		Oct	
	88-2	Photovoltaic Applications		Jan	
	88-3	Design Standards for Critical Facilities	15	Jun	88

Atch 2 (1 of 3)

# ENGINEERING TECHNICAL LETTERS (ETL)

### SECTION A - CURRENT ETLS

ETL	Number	Title	Dat	e I	ssued
	88-4	Reliability & Maintainability (R&M) Design Checklist	24	Jun	. 88
	88-6	Heat Distribution Systems Outside of Buildings	1	Aug	88
	88-9	Radon Reduction in New Facility Construction	7	Oct	. 88
	88 <b>-</b> 10 89 <b>-</b> 2	Prewired Workstations Guide Specification Standard Guidelines for Submission of		Dec	
		Facility Operating and Maintenance Manuals	23	May	89
	89-3	Facility Fire Protection Criteria for Electronic Equipment Installations		Jun	
	89-4 89-6	Systems Furniture Guide Specification Power Conditioning and Continuation Interfacing Equipment (PCCIE) in the	6	Jul	. 89
		Military Construction Program (MCP)		Sep	
	89-7	Design of Air Force Courtrooms	29	Sep	89
	90-1	Built-Up Roof (BUR) Repair/Replacement Guide Specification	23	Jan	90
	90-2	General Policy for Prewired Workstations and Systems Furniture	26	Jan	90
	90-3	TEMPEST Protection for Facilities Change 1 Ref: HQ USAF/LEEDE Ltr dated 20 April 90, Same Subject		Apr	
	90-4	1990 Energy Prices and Discount Factors for Life-Cycle Cost Analysis		May	
	90-5	Fuel and Lube Oil Bulk Storage Capacity		Jul	
	90-6	for Emergency Generators Electrical System Grounding, Static			
	90-7	Grounding and Lightning Protection		Oct	90
	90-8	Air Force Interior Design Policy Guide Specifications for Ethylene			
	90-9	Propylene Diene Monomer (EPDM) Roofing Fire Protection Engineering Criteria for Aircraft Maintenance, Servicing, and			90
	90-10	Storage Facilities Commissioning of Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems Guide		Nov	
	91-1	Specification Fire Protection Engineering Criteria			90
	91-2	Testing Halon Fire Suppression Systems High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP)	2	Jar	91
		Hardening in Facilities	4	Mar	91
	91-3	Water Supply for Fire Protection			91

Atch 2 (2 of 3)

(3 of 3)

# ENGINEERING TECHNICAL LETTERS (ETL)

1

# SECTION A - CURRENT ETLS

ETL Number	r	'itle	Date Issued	
91-4	Site Select Training Ar	n 14 Jun 91		
91-5	Fire Protec	tion Engineering Criteria -		
		Emergency Lighting and Marking of Exits		
91 <b>-</b> 6	Cathodic Pr		3 Jul 91	
91-7		ocarbon (CFC) Limitation in entilating and Air-Conditioning		
	(HVAC) Syst		21 Aug 91	
SECTION B - OBSOLETE ETLS				
No.	Date	Status		
82-1	10 Nov 82	Superseded by ETL 83-10, 86-1,	87-4	
82-3	10 Nov 82	Superseded by ETL 83-5, 84-2		
82-4	10 Nov 82	Superseded by ETL 84-7		
82-5	10 Nov 82	Superseded by ETL 84-1, 86-13,	86-14	
82-6	30 Dec 82	Cancelled		
82-7		Cancelled		
83-2	16 Feb 83	Superseded by ETL 84-3		
83 <b>-</b> 6	24 May 83 21 Mar 84	Cancelled Cancelled		
84-3 84-4	10 Apr 84	Superseded by ETL 86-7, 86-15,	97-5	
84-5	7 May 84	Superseded by ETL 84-8, 86-11,	86-18, 88-6	
84-6	Not Issued	Cancelled/Not Used	00 10, 00 0	
84-9	5 Jul 84	Superseded by ETL 88-7		
88-5	2 Aug 88	Superseded by ETL 91-6		
86-3	21 Feb 86	Superseded by ETL 86-4		
86-6	3 Jun 86	Superseded by ETL 86-11, 86-18	, 88-6	
86-7	3 Jun 86	Superseded by ETL 86-15		
86-12		Superseded by ETL 90-2		
86-13	_	Superseded by ETL 86-14		
86-15		Superseded by ETL 87-5		
86-17		Superseded by ETL 89-6		
86-18	18 Dec 86	Superseded by ETL 88-6	_6	
87-3 87-6	12 Mar 87 21 Aug 87	Superseded by ETL 87-6, ETL 88 Superseded by ETL-88-5	-5	
87 <del>-</del> 7	14 Oct 87	Superseded by ETL 89-1		
Chg 1	30 Dec 87	Superseded by ETL 90-1		
88-1	5 Jan 88	Superseded by ETL 89-2		
88-7	24 Aug 88	Superseded by ETL 90-3, ETL 91	-2	
88-8	4 Oct 88	Superseded by ETL 91-7		
89-1	6 Feb 89	Superseded by ETL 90-4		
89-5		Issued as ETL 90-7		
			Atch 2	